

REV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN JOHNSON, D.D.

SERVICE OF TRIBUTE

FRIDAY JUNE 19, 1992



Metropolitan Baptist Church

32-34 PRINCE STREET

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07103

PROGRAM

Worship Leader.....Deacon Willie R. Burke
Voices of Metropolitan....."We'll Understand It
Better By And By"
Scripture.....Mr. Christopher Heyward
Prayer.....Deacon Donald Gibbons
Rev. Ernest Sabb....."May The Work I've Done
Speak For Me"

*** CIVIC TRIBUTES ***

Honorable Willie Brown.....Assemblyman State
Of New Jersey
Honorable Donald Bradley...Councilman, South Ward
Honorable George Branch..Councilman, Central Ward
Voices of Metropolitan....."I Don't Feel No Ways
Tired"

*** CIVIC TRIBUTES ***

Honorable Ralph T. Grant.....Councilman-At-Large
Honorable Donald Tucker.....President Of Newark
City Council
Honorable Kenneth A. Gibson..Former Mayor, Newark
New Jersey
Musical Interlude.....Miss Robin Gordon,
Harpist

***** MINISTERIAL TRIBUTES *****

Rev. Caleb E. Oates.....Former President,
General Baptist State Convention of New Jersey

***** METROPOLITAN *****

Mrs. Estelle Boggs.....Representing Auxiliaries
Metropolitan Baptist Church

Mrs. Pansy R. King...Director, Board Of Christian
Education

Solo.....Rev. Charles Banks

***** METROPOLITAN *****

Mrs. Linda Hudson.....Representing Choirs
Metropolitan Baptist Church

Mrs. Yolanda Hairston.....President, Deaconess
Board

Mrs. Elizabeth Cothran.....First Vice President
General Mission

Miss Alyson Hairston..President, Youth Department

Voices Of Metropolitan....."I've Got A Feeling"

Closing Remarks.....Deacon Willie R. Burke
Rev. Charles Sanders

BENEDICTION

Lord, I've Tried

*I have never reached perfection,
But I've tried.
Sometimes I have lost connection,
But I've tried.
Sometimes I'm right and sometimes wrong,
Hoping someday, To be strong,
Then I'll rise and sing this song.
Lord, I've tried.*

*I have not lived free from sin,
But I've tried.
Nor been free from doubts within,
But I've tried.
Rock of Ages, Clef for me
Let me hide myself in thee.
On the tempest of life's sea
Lord, I've tried!*

*Lord, I've tried, Lord, I've tried
Yes, I've tried, I've really tried
To be just what you'd have me to be.*

*Sometimes I'm up, and sometimes down,
Almost level to the ground,
Still I'm climbing round by round,
Lord, I've tried.*

**The
Reverend B. F. Johnson
Foundation, Inc.**



About Reverend Johnson

Rev. B. F. Johnson was born in Orter River Township, Virginia, on November 11, 1896. He attended Virginia Seminary, Hampton Institute, North Carolina A & T, Benedict College, Shaw University and the Northern Baptist School of Religion. He held 3 Doctorate degrees from Benedict College, Shaw University and the Northern Baptist School of Religion. At Hampton, he was taught by Booker T. Washington and was frequently lectured to by George Washington Carver. In 1917, he was called to the ministry and in 1921, he organized the Trinity Baptist Church in Columbia, SC. He then served as pastor of the following churches: Shiloh Baptist Church, Lumberton, NC, Antioch Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, Calvary Baptist Church, Goldsboro, NC, Second Baptist Church, Kingston, NC, Wynn Chapel Baptist Church, Mt. Olive, NC and First Baptist Church, Clinton, NC. Then in 1944, he was called to pastor Metropolitan Baptist Church in Newark, N J, where he was pastor until his death in 1992. Under his leadership Metropolitan flourished and grew to be one of the largest Baptist Churches in the State of New Jersey. During his early years at Metropolitan, Rev. served with Martin Luther King, Sr. on the Board of Moderators for the National Baptist Convention. He later replaced King as the Chairman of the Home Mission Board and held that position for 25 years. Rev. Johnson supported M. L. King, Sr. by working to raise money as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was established and he also supported M. L. King, Jr. as a March on Washington participant. Rev. served as the President of the New England Baptist Convention for 20 years. Johnson was a member of the Rotary International and was distinguished as a Paul Harris Fellow. As a 33rd degree Mason, Rev. Johnson was the Grand Master-King Williams Masonic Lodge and a Grand Lecture - Free and accepted Masons (U.S. and Canada).

He was one of the founders of the Interdenominational Council of Churches in Newark. Rev. Johnson was a trustee of the United Community Corporation, the Newark Community Center for the Arts and the Northern Baptist School of Religion. He was a lifetime member of the NAACP and a member of the Urban League. He received three keys to New York City from Mayors Wagner, Lindsey and Beame. He also received the key to the City of Newark from Mayor Ken Gibson. Rev. Johnson worked with, counseled and mentored many of New Jersey's premier politicians during his life in Newark. He trained, ordained and licensed over 70 ministers. A wise man once said of Johnson, **"He was an ordinary man who did extraordinary things. I have seen God in action."**

Reverend Johnson's Principles of Life

Economic Sagacity - a lesson taught to him by Booker T. Washington at Hampton

Pursue Education - also taught to him by Booker T. Washington. "Make your education your meal ticket."

"Expect opposition when something good is being accomplished."

"What a man cannot do, God can do with a man."

"You'll never reach perfection, but try" "We will never be perfect in our thoughts, words and deeds, but we'll get closer to it by putting our trust in God and keep trying."

Our Mission

The Reverend B. F. Johnson Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1999 in order to perpetuate the legacy and work of the Reverend Dr. B. F. Johnson through endeavoring to improve the quality of life in Urban environments by providing educational assistance, mentoring and acts of kindness, especially to inner city youths.



Reverend B. F. Johnson Foundation
64 Wilbur Avenue
Newark, N.J. 07112
973.923.8416
973.926.4238 Fax